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City Document—No. 5.

REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE ON

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

IN RELATION TO

MORE SCHOOL ACCOMMODATIONS

IN WARDS ONE, TWO AND THREE.

ROXBURY:
THOMAS PRINCE, CITY PRINTER.
1853.

CITY OF ROXBURY.

In Board of Aldermen, March 14, 1853.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

JOSEPH W. TUCKER, *City Clerk.*

REPORT.

The Committee on Public Instruction, to whom was submitted the orders in relation to providing more school accommodations for Wards One, Two and Three, and the adding another story to the Dearborn School House, have heard the statements made by a sub-committee appointed by the School Committee to present their wants to the City Council, and have duly considered the same, and now beg leave to Report:

That in the opinion of this Committee, additional school room accommodation in Ward One is much needed. The present School House on Yeoman street is crowded with scholars, and the city now hire a room on East street for the temporary accommodation of the surplus.

These scholars are constantly increasing in number, and of course must be provided for: and as the present location of the School House now erected on Yeoman street will doubtless be a permanent one, your Committee recommend that the building be turned round, bringing the broad side to the street, and that a pediment front be added, thereby providing entries and stairs, as presented on Plan A, Fig. 1, which is submitted with this Report, and thus giving four rooms measuring nineteen by twenty-four feet, which will accommodate about two hundred and fifty pupils. This

will be all that Ward One will probably require for some time to come.

Plan B also submitted, will show the interior appearance of the rooms, after the alterations shall have been made; excepting that your Committee would not sanction the crowding the pupils into so small spaces as there indicated. Sixty are as many as can be properly attended to, in each room, and your Committee think that if the number should not exceed fifty, that the physical comfort, as well as the intellectual advancement of the scholars, would be much improved. This plan will also show the position of the building after its removal; by which it appears that the passage way on one side is but three feet, and on the other five feet. Now as your Committee have before stated that this location will undoubtedly be permanent, they further recommend that a strip of land on the south east side be purchased if practicable, measuring twenty feet on Yeoman street, and running back the length of the present School House lot, and be added thereto. Your Committee do not think it necessary to offer any arguments to show the necessity of this purchase, as by casting an eye upon the Plan B, they think it must be apparent to all.

Your Committee have been informed that the whole expense of moving and making the alterations as shown upon Plan A, can be made for a sum not exceeding $1400; and thinking this the cheapest way that the wants of Ward One for the present instruction of the Primary School pupils can be met, they have unanimously recommended the alterations as above stated.

The city has within the last year lost by fire one Primary School House in Ward Two; and another is called for to supply this loss. Also more school accommodation is asked for in Ward Three, and should be provided to meet the rapid increase of the population in this section of our city. The school rooms here are now densely crowded; some containing as many as seventy-six, seventy-eight, and one, ninety pupils, which we must all admit to be detrimental to their health, comfort and improvement.

Your Committee in surveying the whole ground in relation to the Schools in Wards Two and Three, have come to the conclusion, that one School House would meet all their wants at present, and they unanimously recommend that a suitable and ample lot be set apart on the Stony Brook land, now belonging to the city, as shall be agreed upon by the School Committee, and the Committee on Public Property, and that a plain, substantial brick building, two stories high, containing four rooms in each story, be erected with a foundation and walls sufficiently strong to permit another story to be added, if it should become necessary at any time hereafter. Your Committee have been informed that such a building can be erected at a cost of $1000 for each room.

The School Committee have asked that another story may be added to the Dearborn School House in Ward Five, for the accommodation of the excess of female scholars now existing in the city, and increasing; but your Committee had been informed that such addition was not practicable or safe, as the foundation of that building would not admit of it. To make this certain, they directed a letter to Mr. Huston, the builder, in relation to this matter, and his reply corroborated their previous information. They therefore recommend that no addition be made to the Dearborn School House.

Your Committee are of the opinion that the necessary room for these female scholars can be found in the Vernon Street School House for this year, if not for a longer time.

They therefore recommend the adoption of the accompanying order.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES HICKLING,

For the Committee.

CITY OF ROXBURY.

In Board of Aldermen, March 14, 1853.

Ordered, That the Committee on Public Property cause the alterations to be made in the Yeoman Street School House in Ward One, as recommended in the Report of the Committee on Public Instruction of this date, and that they purchase the adjoining strip of land, as there recommended, if it can be purchased at a reasonable rate, and that they carry out the recommendation in relation to the appropriation of a suitable lot of the Stony Brook land, and cause a brick School House to be erected thereon, provided the erection, alterations and repairs, together with the purchase of land on Yeoman Street, shall not exceed the sum of dollars.